

February 6th 2008 HMSC Safety Committee Meeting

The meeting began at approximately 9:00AM. Rick Brown, Randy Walker, Sean Matson, Faith Cole, Patty George and Dave Johnson were present.

Randy mentioned that facilities have entered safety items reported after walk-throughs into their P.M. program

Rick said that most of the current safety issues were covered in the recent managers' meeting and that notification of HMSC personnel in the event of emergency closures garnered a significant portion of the discussion.

Randy related that the December third storm revealed personnel notification, including call-ins could be improved. He said an answering machine may be added to the Facilities emergency phone line and consideration is being given to releasing real-time HMSC closure information for broadcast on local radio stations.

It was expressed that some agencies/groups at HMSC have differing closure policies and policies for leave/excusal from work for days of hazardous weather.

Faith said that ODFW's (unofficial) closure policy seems to be that if Highway 101 and the bridge are open and the power is on, then ODFW will also be open even if HMSC is closed.

Rick shared that federal agencies are somewhat flexible regarding personnel reporting for work during hazardous road/weather conditions. Rick's concern is to keep non-essential personnel away and out of danger during hazardous weather conditions.

Randy said there will be an official HMSC policy coming out soon regarding center closures, call-ins and personnel notification.

On the subject of power outages, it was discussed that dock pumps are on HMSC generators and reservoir pumps are on ODFW generators.

Randy expressed concern whether HMSC generators currently have enough fuel capacity for a prolonged outage.

Rick said the crux of the issue is to determine how often and of what duration prolonged outages are likely to occur and what amount of resources is justified in putting towards their preparation.

Dave had an ingenious low-cost solution involving intermittent generator operation and switching emergency power around to different areas for different durations.

Patty brought up that Hollis asked for an update of the phone list of emergency personnel on the website.

Sean said that Tim did a great job repairing the rotten boards in the large deck and railing that run along the front of housing. A current safety issue in housing is that the temporary repair to the lamppost near the dining hall has been in use for an extended period and may present an electrocution hazard (e.g. if someone were to touch the connection wires when raining) at the spot where the extension cord is wired into the lamp pole. A permanent solution would be advantageous.